

Amendment to the Claims

Please amend claims 20, 30 and 32 as indicated in the listing of claims.

Claims 2-16, 19, 21-24 and 31 were previously canceled.

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) An isolated marine actinomycete having an obligate requirement of sodium for growth, wherein the marine actinomycete is a strain of *Salinospora* comprising 16S rRNAs SEQ ID NO:4 or 5.

2-16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously presented) The strain of *Salinospora* of claim 1, wherein the strain of *Salinospora* is obtained from sediment.

18. (Previously presented) The method for producing a biomolecule, comprising culturing a strain of *Salinospora* of claim 1 in a sodium containing growth media, wherein the biomolecule is produced by the strain of *Salinospora*;
collecting the strain of *Salinospora* or the sodium containing growth media containing the biomolecule; and extracting the biomolecule from the strain of *Salinospora* or the sodium containing growth media, thereby producing the biomolecule.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[1]] 18, wherein the growth media comprises sodium at a concentration of 450 mM.

21-24. (Canceled).

25. (Previously presented) The isolated strain of *Salinospora* of claim 1, wherein SEQ ID NOs:4 or 5 have signature nucleotides not found in other *Micromonosporaceae* 16S rRNAs.

26. (Previously presented) The isolated strain of *Salinospora* of claim 25, wherein the signature nucleotides are numbered and identified in accordance to the *E.coli* 16S rRNA sequence, wherein a uridine or cytosine at position 207 is an adenosine; an adenosine or guanine at position 366 is a cytosine; an adenosine or guanine at position 467 is a uracil; an adenosine at position 468 is a uracil; and adenosine at position 1456 is a guanine.

27. (Previously presented) An isolated strain of *Salinospora* having an obligate requirement of sodium for growth, wherein the strain of *Salinospora* is a strain of *Salinospora* comprising 16S rRNAs SEQ ID NO:4 or 5 and signature nucleotides therein, wherein the signature nucleotides are numbered and identified in accordance to the *E.coli* 16S rRNA sequence, wherein a uridine or cytosine at position 207 is an adenosine; an adenosine or guanine at position 366 is a cytosine; an adenosine or guanine at position 467 is a uracil; an adenosine at position 468 is a uracil; and adenosine at position 1456 is a guanine.

28. (Previously presented) An isolated strain of *Salinospora* having an obligate requirement of sodium for growth, wherein the strain of *Salinospora* is a strain of *Salinospora* comprising a 16S rRNA and signature nucleotides therein, wherein the signature nucleotides are numbered and identified in accordance to the *E.coli* 16S rRNA sequence, wherein a uridine or cytosine at position 207 is an adenosine; an adenosine or guanine at position 366 is a cytosine; an

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adenosine or guanine at position 467 is a uracil; an adenosine at position 468 is a uracil; and adenosine at position 1456 is a guanine.

29. (Previously presented) The strain of *Salinospora* of claims 26, 27 or 28, wherein the strain of *Salinospora* is obtained from sediment.

30. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claims 26, 27 or 28~~ claim 18, wherein the growth media comprises sodium at a concentration of 450 mM.

31. (Canceled).

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[27]]~~ 18, wherein the growth media comprises sodium at a concentration of 450 mM.